

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-05
TRSE-00 OMB-01 DHA-02 AGRE-00 EB-07 /136 W
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R 100133Z MAY 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3559
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABARONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSULATE CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS USUN 1471

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS:PFOR, US, UN, LT
SUBJECT: SYG WALDHEIM'S LETTER ON ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO

REF: USUN 1469

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF LETTER TO US PERM REP FROM SYG
WALDHEIM CONCERNING ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO (ITEM TO BE
DISCUSSED IN SECURITY COUNCIL BEGINNING MAY 24):
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QUOTE

SIR,

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REFER TO MY NOTE SO 570 OF 5
JANUARY 1977 IN WHICH I TRANSMITTED A COPY OF SECURITY
COUNCIL RESOLUTION 402 (1976) OF 22 DECEMBER 1976 CONCERNING

ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO

IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THE RESOLUTION APPEALED TO ALL STATES TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATELY FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO, SO THAT IT COULD "CARRY OUT ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES AND ENHANCE ITS CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT FULLY THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS ON APARTHEID AND BANTUSTANS". I WAS REQUESTED TO ORGANIZE, IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS, ALL FORMS OF ASSISTANCE TO ENABLE LESOTHO TO OVERCOME THE ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES ARISING FROM THE CLOSURE OF THE BORDER POSTS.

IN MY NOTE UNDER REFERENCE I INFORMED YOU OF MY INTENTION TO SEND A MISSION TO LESOTHO WITH A VIEW TO FURNISHING MEMBER STATES WITH INFORMATION ABOUT LESOTHO'S PROBLEMS AND NEEDS AND TO FACILITATE THE ORGANIZATION OF ASSISTANCE. THE MISSION HAS COMPLETED ITS STUDY OF THE SITUATION AND ITS REPORT IS CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT S/12315, COPI OF WHICH IS ATTACHED.

THE MISSION EXAIMED IN DETAIL LESOTHO'S PRESENT ECONOMIC SITUATION AND WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED AT THE FRAGILE NATURE OF THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY AND ITS DEPENDENCE ON EXTERNAL SOURCES FOR MANY VITAL GOODS AND SERVICES. IT IS THIS EXTERNAL ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE AS MUCH AS ITS GEO-POLITICAL SITUATION WHICH MAKES LESOTHO VULNERABLE TO PRESSURES.

IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES IT IS IMPORTANT FOR LESOTHO TO
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RECIEVE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY THE ASSISTANCE WHICH IT NEEDS URGENTLY FOR ITS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FOR ENHANCING ITS CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT THE RESOLUTIONS ON APARTHEID AND BANTUSTANS. THIS ASSISTANCE WOULD ALSO SERVE AS A PRACTICAL DEMONSRTATION OF INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR LESOTHO.

THE MISSION HAS GROUPED ITS RECOMMENDATIONS UNDER TWO HEADINGS - THE EMERGENCY PROGRAMME AND THE ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME:

(A) THE \$66 MILLION EMERGENCY PROGRAMME COVERS THE PROJECTS REQUIRED FOR LESOTHO TO BE ALBE TO COPE WITH THE EMERGENCY SITUATION CREATED BY THE CLOSURE OF BORDER POSTS AND BY OTHER MEASURES BY SOUTH AFRICA SUCH AS THE WITHDRAWAL OF GAIN SUBSIDIES. THE EMERGENCY PROGRAMME ALSO TAKES INTO ACCOUNT THE PROBLEMS WHICH WILL ARISE FROM AN EXPECTED POOR MAIZE HARVEST THIS YEAR.

(B THE \$47 MILLION ACCERLATED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME COMPRSES SELECTED PROJECTS, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF WHICH SHOULD BE FACILITATED BECAUSE THEY COULD RELATIVELY QUICKLY CONTRIBUTE TO STRENGTHENING LESOTHO'S ECONOMY AND THEREBY DIMINISH ITS DEPENDENCE ON SOUTH AFRICA.

THE GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO RECOGNIZES THE NEED FOR CO-ORDINATED ACTION, BOTH IN SEEKING INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND IN USING THE ASSISTANCE TO IMPLEMENT THE PROPOSED PROGRAMMES. FOR THIS PURPOSE I HAVE DESIGNATED MR. ABDULRAHIM ABBY FARAH, ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS, TO BE RESPONSIBLE AT HEADQUARTERS FOR CO-ORDINATING ACTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM. HIS OFFICE, WHICH WILL WORK IN CLOSE CO-OPERATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO, WILL MAINTAIN UP-TO-DATE RECORDS OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF LESOTHO AND OF THE OFFERS OF ASSISTANCE RECEIVED OR PLEDGED.

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FURTHERMORE, IT WILL ACT AS A CLEARING HOUSE FOR INFORMATION ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME.

THE GOVERNMENT OF LESOTHO HAS INDICATED TO ME THAT IT WOULD WELCOME BOTH MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL ASSISTANCE. A SPECIAL ACCOUNT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AT HEADQUARTERS FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THOSE DONORS WHO MAY WISH TO CHANNEL THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO LESOTHO THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS.

THE RESOURCES REQUIRED TO FINANCE THE VARIOUS PROJECTS RECOMMENDED IN THE REPORT OF THE MISSION ARE CLEARLY BEYOND THE MEANS AVAILABLE TO LESOTHO. THEY CAN ONLY BE PROVIDED THROUGH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, I TRUST THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT WILL RESPOND POSITIVELY TO THE APPEAL OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR IMMEDIATE FINANCIAL, TECHNICAL AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE TO LESOTHO.

ACCEPT, SIR, THE ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION.

KURT WALDHEIM
SECRETARY-GENERAL UNQUOTE

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